



Virginia's **coastal zone** encompasses 46 Tidewater counties and cities in the Atlantic coast, Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle/Pamlico Estuary watersheds, and all waters therein, and out to, the three mile Territorial Sea boundary.

**Virginia Coastal Program Office:**

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Since 1986, the Commonwealth has received over \$35 million in federal Coastal Zone Management Act funds, matched by over \$32 million in state and local funds, to implement its Coastal Program. As a "maximum-funded state" Virginia receives about \$3 million annually from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Having a federally approved Coastal Program also allows Virginia to ensure that federal actions in its coastal zone are consistent with the state's Coastal Program.

Coastal policies are administered by a network of state agencies and local governments -

- Marine Resources Commission
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Tidewater Cities and Counties

Other agencies participating in the Program -

- Department of Historic Resources
- Department of Forestry
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Department of Transportation
- Economic Development Partnership

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) serves as the lead agency for Virginia's networked Coastal Program.

The Virginia Coastal Program Office at DEQ distributes funding from NOAA under the Coastal Zone Management Act and helps agencies and localities to develop and implement coordinated coastal policies.

Visit [www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal) for more details on the

# Virginia Coastal Program



The Virginia Coastal Program was established in 1986 as a network of state laws and policies through which the Commonwealth of Virginia manages **sand dunes, wetlands, subaqueous lands, fisheries, point and nonpoint source air and water pollution, shoreline sanitation**, and areas of particular concern such as **coastal wildlife habitats, public access, waterfront redevelopment and underwater historic sites**.

Headquartered in the  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Environmental Enhancement



Protecting, Restoring, Strengthening Our Coastal Ecosystems and Economy



**Goal #1:** To protect and restore coastal resources, habitats and species of the Commonwealth. These include, but are not limited to, wetlands, subaqueous lands and vegetation, sand dune systems, barrier islands, underwater or maritime cultural resources, riparian forested buffers and endangered or threatened species.



**Goal #2:** To restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters for human and ecosystem health through protection from adverse effects of excess nutrients, toxics, pathogens and sedimentation.



**Goal #3:** To protect air quality.



**Goal #4:** To reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property caused by shoreline erosion, storms and other coastal hazards in a manner that balances environmental and economic considerations.



**Goal #5:** To provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture.



**Goal #6:** To promote sustainable ecotourism and to increase and improve public access to coastal waters and shorefront lands compatible with resource protection goals.



**Goal #7:** To promote renewable energy production and provide for appropriate extraction of energy and mineral resources consistent with proper environmental practices.



**Goal #8:** To ensure sustainable development on coastal lands and support access for water-dependent development through effective coordination of governmental planning processes.



**Goal #9:** To avoid and minimize coastal resource use conflicts through research, planning and a forum for coordination and facilitation among government agencies, interest groups and citizens.



**Goal #10:** To promote informed decision-making by maximizing the availability of up-to-date educational information, technical advice and scientific data.

### Virginia Coastal Program Activities:

- State and Local Coastal Technical Assistance
- Wetlands and Dunes Management - *resource mapping, planning and policy development*
- Environmental Management - *resource mapping, planning and guidance*
- Habitat Restoration, Protection and Monitoring
- Land Acquisition
- Local Government Planning and Comprehensive Plans
- Public Access Planning and Construction
- Public Education
- Shoreline Management
- Special Area Management Planning
- Water Quality Modeling and Monitoring

